

Virden, Man.

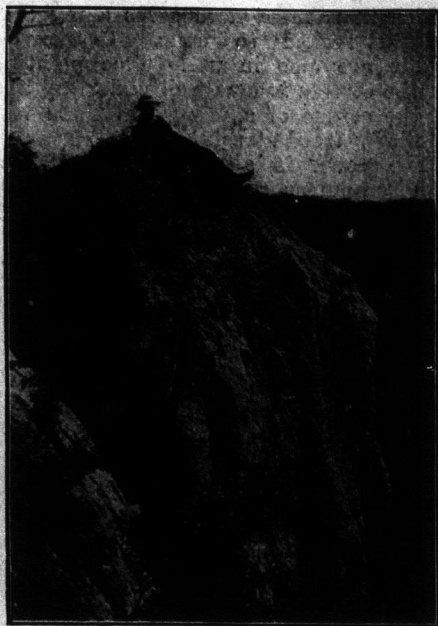
By G. E. C. Clough.

Virden is about fifty miles west of Brandon. It is there yet: come to see it.

You will be told it is a pretty little town; it is more than that. Comfortable, sheltered, picturesque, it is a home town, a place to live in.

Most prairie towns are alike: business blocks, stables, shacks, and a long line of telephone poles to the horizon. You see it all at a glance, and spend the rest of the day on the porch of the frame hotel.

Virden is different. Its finest avenues running through virgin woodland, and its streets northeast and southwest so that all trails enter the town at an angle, one sees nowhere the familiar far sweep of prairie, but everywhere the neat roads are cut across by a back-



Keeping his eye on Virden.

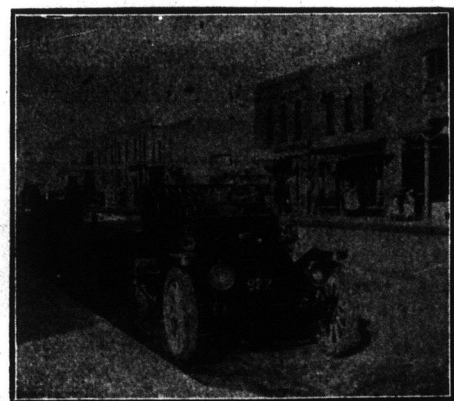


Eighth Avenue, Virden, Man.

ground of banks and trees. The effect is a well-rounded completeness, and this is further emphasized by a little creek that half encircles the town and is crossed by numerous bridges. A gentle rise and fall of the ground helps to make each tree-lined street and avenue a picture. The business section has many fine stores and handsome buildings. Three banks and a newspaper office are signs of prosperity. One notices the many automobiles, used for business and pleasure.

Railways—C.P.R. main line and Pheasant Hills branch; C.N.R. connects with main line nine miles south. Good shipping facilities, and first-class accommodation for travellers at three big hotels.

Churches—to suit every shade of belief. But come and see the "little old school" alongside the "old school," now an immigration hall (Virden received



Nelson St., Virden, Man.

over a thousand immigrants last year, for distribution; then look at the splendid "new school," built to accommodate 400 children. Walk half a mile and you can see a \$25,000 Collegiate in course of construction. Not bad for a quiet little town. Another big new building is the \$15,000 hospital, an invaluable institution and an evidence of progressive community.

Virdenites are proud of their granolithic sidewalks, and their park. On the former they spent \$5,000 this summer, and they have them now right to the outskirts and on all the prettiest streets. Within five minutes' walk of the busi-

ness centre, the Park is a sylvan retreat, where the gardener's skill is chiefly needed to keep nature within bounds by clearing undergrowth and making pathways, flower beds, and open spaces for the children to romp and swing in. Here the tennis club has four fine courts and a club house.

Across the track from the park is the exhibition ground, with a half-mile race track where the pacers make fast time. Here are the football and baseball grounds and here the cricketers wield the willow on the summer evenings. Further out are the traps where the gun club enthusiasts blaze away at their clay birds. Lovers of the rifle shoot at all distances up to 1,000 yards over one of the finest ranges in the west.

In winter the skating rink is the chief attraction. Ice for the curling club is under the same roof. Twice a week the Virden Silver Band adds to the pleasure of the winter sport. Mentioning the band reminds one of the other uniformed corps—the dragoons, who won distinction at this year's camp, and the smart little cadets with their big hats and bright red sashes.

What about the land? Some near town is rather light, but the farmers need big barns. The crops ripen early, and crop failure is almost unknown. The rural municipality is "dry." The farmers believe in good roads and municipal phones. You can call up 650 subscribers without extra charge—perhaps the biggest free rural phone service in the west. The annual summer fair shows the great interest taken in every branch of rural industry, not excepting the arts that make for comfort, refinement and luxury in the home.

But you must come to Virden and become acquainted. You will find the people kindly, hospitable and enjoying a full measure of social life. Friendly relationships are promoted by many fraternal societies, and church societies innumerable. Place and people are all right and the town is going ahead.



Beaver Dam, near Virden, Man.

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A Song.

There is ever a song somewhere, my dear;
There is ever something sings away;
There's the song of the lark when the skies are clear,
And the song of the thrush when skies are grey.
The sunshine showers across the grain,
And the bluebird trills in the orchard tree;
And in and out, when the eaves drip rain,
The swallows are twittering ceaselessly.
There is ever a song somewhere, my dear,
Be the skies above or dark or fair,
There is ever a song that our hearts may hear,
There is ever a song somewhere, my dear—
There is ever a song somewhere!
There is ever a song somewhere, my dear,
In the midnight black, or the mid-day blue
The robin pipes when the sun is here,
And the cricket chirps the whole night through.
The buds may blow and the fruit may grow,
And the autumn leaves drop crisp and sere;
But whether the sun, or the rain, or the snow,
There is ever a song somewhere, my dear. —James Whitcomb Riley.

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W. J. Bryan:—The mass of the world's work is done by average people with average powers.

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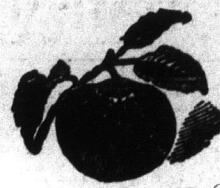
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